

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 17 and 18 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-18 remain pending and are resubmitted for consideration.

Drawings/Specification

The drawings are objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). In particular, drawings are objected to because reference numerals "3" and "32" have been used to designate multiple elements. The specification has been amended to correct these minor informalities. Specifically, reference numeral "3" has been changed in paragraph [0032] to "32." Reference numeral "32" in paragraph [0034] has been changed to "30." Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

35 U.S.C. 102/103 Rejections

Claims 1, 8, 12, 13, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1049234 ("Takeshi"). Claims 2-7, 9-11, 14-15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi. Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended. The rejections should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 calls for a drive unit for an electric vehicle that comprises, among other things, a motor, an inverter, a speed reducer, a first refrigerant to receive heat from at least one of the motor and the inverter, a second refrigerant to receive heat from at least one of the motor and the speed reducer, and a heat exchanger that is "integrally built in the structural member ... and including a cooling passage through which the second refrigerant is passed and another cooling passage through which the first refrigerant is passed, the another cooling passage being disposed inside of the cooling passage." Claim 17 calls for a drive unit that comprises, among other things, a motor, an inverter, a speed reducer, and a cooling system that includes a first refrigerant passage in contact with at least one of the motor and inverter and a second refrigerant passage in contact with at least one of the motor and speed reducer, and "the first refrigerant passage is disposed inside the second refrigerant passage." Takeshi fails to teach or suggest such a drive unit as claimed in claim 1 or claim 17.

Takeshi discloses a motor M with an oil circulation passage L, an inverter U with a cooling water circulation passage F, and a radiator R connected to the cooling water circulation passage F. See Takeshi at Fig. 1 and paragraph numbers [0036] and [0037]. The water circulation passage F is not positioned inside of the oil circulation passage L. On the contrary,

water circulation passage F is merely adjacent to the oil circulation passage L. See Takeshi at Fig. 1. Thus, Takeshi fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Furthermore, even assuming that it would be obvious to modify Takeshi by changing the specific configuration of the inverter and the speed reducer as suggested by the Office Action, the water circulation passage F would not be positioned insider of the oil circulation passage L. See Office Action at p. 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2-16 and 18 depend from claim 1 or claim 17 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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